

Applicants: Saaski et al.
Application Serial No. 10/809,820
Filing Date: March 25, 2004
Docket No.: 187-75
Reply to Non-Final Office Action mailed March 20, 2006
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REMARKS

Pursuant to the non-final Office Action mailed March 20, 2006, which has been carefully considered, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further prosecution of this application, each of the issues raised in the Office Action is addressed herein.

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in this application, of which Claims 1 and 14 are independent claims. By this amendment, Claim 1 has been amended and new Claim 14 has been added to further clarify that which the Applicants regard as the invention. Support for the amendments to Claim 1 and new Claim 14 is provided at page 4, paragraphs 17-19; page 5, paragraphs 20-22; and is shown in Figures 1, 3, 4, and 5.

A. **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The conditional allowability of Claim 6 is acknowledged and appreciated.

B. **Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-5, 7, and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,386,239 to Shiffman (*Shiffman*).

The present invention is directed to an electronic wrist device, which includes a plastic body part with an aperture into an equipment compartment, a cover part joined to the body part adapted to at least partly close the aperture, and a fastening structure, which is at least partly pressed into the body part and which at least partly sets against the positioning surface. The fastening structure comprises a cover press means for pressing the cover part into contact with the body part, and a projecting grip structure extending at least partly into the body part, setting against the positioning surface, and blocked in relation to the mounting direction of the cover part for preventing the fastening structure from moving in a direction opposite to the mounting direction once the fastening structure has been pressed within the body part in the mounting direction, as now defined by amended Claim 1.

The present invention is also directed to an electronic wrist device, which includes a plastic body part with an aperture into an equipment compartment, a cover part joined to the body part adapted to at least partly close the aperture, and a fastening structure. The fastening structure comprises a projecting grip structure extending at least partly into the body part, setting against the positioning surface, and blocked in relation to the mounting direction of the cover part to prevent the fastening structure from moving in a direction opposite to the mounting direction once the fastening structure has been pressed without rotation within the body part, as now defined by new Claim 14.

Shiffman relates to a plastic watch case and crystal, which has an external thread that mates with an internal thread of the watch case to seal the case against moisture. However, as indicated throughout *Shiffman*, the crystal must be rotated until the assembly is tight, as

described at column 1, lines 60-63 and column 2, lines 19-23, 52-56, and 52-56. Thus, Shiffman discloses a combination of a watch case and crystal, in which combination the watch movement is placed in the case from the top thereof and the crystal is employed to bear upon the bezel, preferably through the placement of an intermediate gasket washer and by rotation or partial rotation of the crystal, the crystal being rotated in, which holds the watch movement against relative motion in the assembly, and seals the case against moisture or contamination, as described in the abstract.

According to Figure 3, a skirt of the crystal, below the flange, is formed with a single outwardly projecting thread 9, and a flange 4 of the watch case body 1 is provided with a corresponding thread-receiving channel 10, as described at column 2, lines 46-49. According to Figure 4, the crystal is assembled with the watch case body by normal clockwise rotation. The skirt of the crystal is formed with a plurality of thread projections 12, as indicated at column 2, lines 52-54. According to Figure 5, the watch case body 1 has wedges 15. The watch case body 1 has its flange 4 provided with a gap for reception of each wedge 15, the gap leading to a channel having an inclined lower face coacting with the wedge projection 15 of the crystal, in each case, to securely hold the crystal, and yet permit rotation of the latter for its removal by a friction device applied to the top of the crystal, as indicated at column 2, lines 60-68.

The fastening mechanism in *Shiffman* requires relative rotation between the watch case body and the crystal. *Shiffman* fails to disclose that the fastening structure comprises a projecting grip structure preventing the fastening structure from moving in a direction

opposite to the mounting direction once the fastening structure has merely been pressed within the body part in the mounting direction, as recited in Claim 1, or without rotation, as recited in Claim 14.

The feature "pressing in the mounting direction" of the subject invention clearly does not include an intentional rotational between the fastening structure and the body part. On the other hand, *Shiffman* explicitly requires rotation between the watch case body and the crystal in order to couple the watch case body and crystal, and fails to disclose that pressing would complete this coupling. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have arrived at the invention defined by Claims 1 and 14 from that described in *Shiffmann*.

Even though in Figure 5, one stage of assembling the watch case body with the crystal involves inserting the crystal into the watch case body, the insertion does not provide any coupling between these elements, but is rather an action performed prior to the rotational motion, which provides the actual coupling. As the Examiner illustrates in Figure 3 of the Office Action, the mounting direction is directed essentially perpendicularly to the threads. In such a case, the pressing of the crystal against the watch case body does not induce rotation between the watch case body and the crystal. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not merely press a threaded portion against a thread-receiving portion to fully couple the two portions.

The ability to prevent a fastening structure from moving in a direction opposite to the mounting direction once the fastening structure has merely been pressed within the body part in the mounting direction (as opposed to requiring rotation of these elements) provides a far

more substantial connection that is significantly less likely to be inadvertently loosened or opened through, for example, normal wear by the user. Such loosening would likely contribute to the entry of impurities, such as water and dust, into the threads and/or watch case (equipment compartment), as disclosed at paragraphs 3 and 7 of the specification.

C. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8, 9, and 13 were rejected as being obvious in view of *Schiffman*.

Applicants respectfully note that in order to support a claim of *prima facie* anticipation, a single reference must teach or enable each of the claimed elements as arranged in the claim interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art. Further, in order to support a claim of *prima facie* obviousness, the cited references must teach or suggest each and every element of the invention, and there must be a motivation in the references or the prior art to combine the references and the prior art as suggested.

However, nothing in the art of record would teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, an electronic wrist device, which includes a plastic body part with an aperture into an equipment compartment, a cover part joined to the body part adapted to at least partly close the aperture, and a fastening structure, which comprises a cover press means for pressing the cover part into contact with the body part, and a projecting grip structure extending at least partly into the body part, setting against the positioning surface, and blocked in relation to the mounting direction of the cover part for preventing the fastening structure from moving in a direction opposite to the mounting direction once the fastening

structure has been pressed within the body part in the mounting direction, as now defined by amended Claim 1.

Further, nothing in the art of record would teach or suggest an electronic wrist device, which includes a plastic body part with an aperture into an equipment compartment, a cover part joined to the body part adapted to at least partly close the aperture, and a fastening structure comprising a projecting grip structure extending at least partly into the body part, setting against the positioning surface, and blocked in relation to the mounting direction of the cover part to prevent the fastening structure from moving in a direction opposite to the mounting direction once the fastening structure has been pressed without rotation within the body part, as now defined by new Claim 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-13, which depend from Claim 1, are patentable over the art of record by virtue of their dependence. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 2-13 define additional patentable subject matter in their own right. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 1-5, 7, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and the rejection of Claims 8, 9, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Entry of new Claim 14 and amendments to Claim 1; favourable consideration of new Claim 14 and Claim 1, as amended; favourable reconsideration of Claims 2-13; and allowance of pending Claims 1-14 are solicited.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number provided below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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